RECM 300 Recreation Behavior

Michael E. Patterson
410 CHCB
Telephone: 6614
michael.patterson@umontana.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an understanding of recreation behavior in wildland and nature-based tourism oriented settings. Students will learn about theories/conceptual frameworks from social and environmental psychology and their application to visitor management issues in the wildland recreation and nature-based tourism fields.

COURSE GOALS:

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

1.) Demonstrate an understanding of science and theory in relation to managerial decision making in the nature-based recreation field;

2.) Demonstrate familiarity with, and the ability to read and interpret, professional peer-reviewed sources of literature on recreation behavior.

3.) Demonstrate an understanding of major socio-psychological theories and concepts explaining recreation, leisure, and tourism behavior;

4.) Demonstrate the ability to apply major socio-psychological theories and concepts to the study and resolution of management problems in nature-based recreation.

Upper Division Writing

This course is one of three courses needed to satisfy the upper division writing requirement for CFC majors. Each student is required to achieve satisfactory scores on a sophomore-level writing course (FOR 220/WBIO 245 or equivalent). The successful completion of one of these courses plus the writing proficiency exam will be prerequisites for completion of the upper division distributed writing requirement.

Assessment of student writing will be on the basis of the following criteria:

1. A clear statement of purpose (hypothesis or question or goal) within the scientific context of the specific discipline.
2. The development of effective logical arguments using evidence and/or theory from the discipline or supporting disciplines.
3. Writing meets discipline-specific writing conventions including the proper citation of sources of information.
4. Demonstrate appropriate English language usage.

COURSE READINGS:

Readings will primarily consist of peer-reviewed journal articles and published agency research reports (the Forest Service research branch in particular has a large body of professionally relevant, theoretically based literature relevant to nature-based recreation).
Grading:

Grades will be based on class participation; 2 assignments written outside of class including a critical peer-review of an empirical article with one rewrite; and 2 exams. A traditional letter grade using the +/- system will be assigned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper (with rewrite)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>